

28th August 1926]

Archæology:

Protected monuments in South Kanara.

* 2399 Q.—Mr. K. RAGHUCHANDRA BALLAL: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) with reference to question No. 2163, clause (d), answered on 16th July 1926, whether both the court and the courtyard referred to have been declared protected, and if so, when and under what conditions; and

(b) whether the Jain statue of Gomateshwara at Venoor of the Karkal taluk in South Kanara has not been declared so protected, and if so, what the reasons are?

A.—(a) The inner courtyard of the palace alone has been declared protected under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act. This declaration was made in 1921 since the courtyard contained beautifully carved wooden pillars, a coffered wooden ceiling and a fine carved wooden door, which the Government wished to save from decay. A copy ^a of the agreement executed by the owner of the building is appended.

(b) No. Objections were raised against the proposal to declare the statue protected and the trustee was unwilling to enter into an agreement with Government for its preservation.

Depressed Classes.

Alleged obstruction to depressed classes from passing through the public pathway of Killanur.

* 2400 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the petition of the depressed classes, dated 14th July 1926, sent to the Chief Secretary, Government of Madras, through me, regarding the obstruction caused to them in their passage through the public pathway in the village of Killanur, Tirukkoyilur taluk, on 1st June 1926, has been received; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in the matter and with what results?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Government have not taken any action in the matter. The hon. Member has already been informed that the matter is one for the local authorities to deal with.

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—“With reference to the answers given in clauses (a) and (b), may I know whether Government have not taken any action in the matter at least of announcing the G.O. No. 2666, dated 24th September 1926, with reference to allowing all classes of people without any distinction whatever to pass through public roads and pathways without any obstruction from anybody?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—“It is a matter for the local authorities concerned.”

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Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ May I know whether they have announced that Government Order which was accepted by them ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ Naturally the Government Order must have been communicated.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ May I take it that they have not forwarded the petition referred to in this question to the local authorities concerned ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ That is a matter for the local authorities. The hon. Member might himself bring it to their notice.”

Alleged disabilities of depressed classes in certain villages of North Arcot district.

* 2401 Q.—**Mr. R. VEERIAN** : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the depressed classes in the villages of (1) No. 37, Uthirampatti, Arkonam taluk, North Arcot district, (2) Melnaickenpoliem village, Wallajah taluk, Vellore division, North Arcot district, and (3) Arnanallur village, Wallajah taluk, North Arcot district, suffer very much for want of public pathway to carry their dead bodies to the burial ground for burial ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the caste Hindus object strongly to their (‘ depressed classes ’) passing through their (‘ Hindus ’) patta lands to go to the burial ground carrying their dead bodies ;

(c) whether any steps have been taken on the petitions submitted by the depressed classes of those villages on 15th July 1926 through me to the Commissioner of Labour, Madras ; and

(d) if so, what is the result of the enquiries made by the Commissioner of Labour ?

A.—(a), (b), (c) & (d) The Government have no information.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ Sir, here is a complaint that the people suffer very much for want of public pathway to carry the dead bodies to the burial ground for burial. It seems to me to be a sufficiently important matter to call for the information.”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ I have no objection. I shall consider the suggestion.”

Forests.

Regeneration and exploitation of forests.

* 2402 Q.—**Mr. J. A. SALDANHA** : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased—

(a) to place before the House a brief account of the methods, ways and means, and official staff employed for five years closing with the year 1925 in connexion with the preparation of working plans and with the regeneration and exploitation as well as the conservation of forests ; and

(b) to state what are the schemes in that connexion adopted for the year 1926-27 ?